

RESPONSE

The Applicant would like to thank the examiner for allowing claims 14-21 and for indicating the allowability of claims 4-9 & 11-12 if rewritten in independent form, which Applicant has done by way of the foregoing amendments and cancellations. Particularly, claims 2-4 are canceled in favor of incorporating features recited therein into base claim 1. It is respectfully contended that no issue of new matter is presented by any such amendment. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the foregoing amendments insofar as such amendments are presented to merely cancel certain claims and place the application in condition for allowance by adopting the examiner's suggestions expressed on item 5 of page 3 of the Office Action.

I.
CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 15 is objectionable as containing a grammatical informality. Claim 15 is amended to change recitation "said seal mechanism" to "said sealing mechanism," in accordance with the examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II.
35 U.S.C. 102 REJECTION

Claims 1-3, 10 & 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,923,443 to Sundholm.

The Applicant respectfully contends that the rejected claims are patentably distinct over the teachings of Sundholm in view of the incorporation of allowable subject matter of claim into base claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

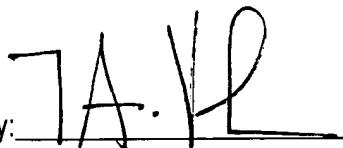
Accordingly, as it has been shown that the cited reference cited by the examiner lack any teaching, disclosure or suggestion for the aforementioned features of Applicant's claimed invention, it is respectfully requested that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, it would appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that prosecution of the instant applicant may be expeditiously closed.

While no fees are believed to be necessary with respect to the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any official fees or credit any fees or deficiencies with respect to the filing of this response or this application to Deposit Account No. 18-2361.

Respectfully submitted,

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